
19th FEBRUARY, 1803.

Received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

21st FEBRUARY, 1803.

Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next.

A B I L L

To Incorporate the Directors of the Columbian Library Company.

1 **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,
3 That Stephen B. Balch, Joseph Nourse, Charles D. Green, John
4 Craven, Francis Lowndes, junior, and George French, and their
5 successors, duly elected or appointed in manner hereinafter directed,
6 be, and they are hereby made, declared and constituted, in law
7 and in fact, to have continuance for ever, by the name, stile and
8 title of “ The Directors of the Columbian Library Company in
9 George Town.”

10 rate, able or capable to make the same ; and also, to give, grant,
 11 let, sell, and convey, or assign the same lands, tenements, rents,
 12 annuities, liberties, franchises and hereditaments, as to the said
 13 corporation shall seem meet and convenient.

1 SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation,
 2 by the name, stile and title aforesaid, be, and shall be hereafter
 3 forever able and capable by law, to sue and be sued, plead and
 4 be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be
 5 defended; in any court or courts, or other places, and before any
 6 judge or judges, justice or justices, or other persons whatever,
 7 within the district of Columbia or elsewhere, in all and all man-
 8 ner of suits, actions, complaints, pleas, causes, matters, and de-
 9 mands, of whatsoever kind or nature they may be, in as full and
 10 effectual a manner as any other person or persons, bodies politic
 11 or corporate, may or can do.

1 SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation
 2 shall have full power and authority to make, have, and use, one
 3 common seal, with such devise and inscription as they shall think
 4 proper, and the same to break, alter, and renew at their pleasure :
 5 To appoint a treasurer, secretary, and librarian ; to assign them
 6 their duties, fix their compensation, and remove him or them from
 7 office, and appoint another or others in their place, as often as
 8 they shall think fit. To make, ordain, establish, and execute such
 9 bye-laws, and ordinances as may be deemed useful to the insti-
 10 tution, and the same to alter, amend, or abrogate at pleasure :

11 to fix the price of new shares, and annual contributions on each
 12 share: to direct how transfers may be made and certified, and
 13 judge of the persons proper to be admitted members: to procure
 14 by purchase, rent, or otherwise, a suitable place for keeping the
 15 Library and Museum: to appoint the times for keeping the Li-
 16 brary open, and for taking out and returning books: to fill up
 17 vacancies that may happen in their number, between two annual
 18 meetings: to levy and collect fines and forfeitures, and to deter-
 19 mine upon, do, and transact all business and matters appertain-
 20 ing to the said corporation and Library company, agreeably to
 21 the rules, ordinances, and bye-laws thereof, during their conti-
 22 nuance in office: *Provided*, that not less than three of the said
 23 directors form a quorum to do business: that no bye-law, rule
 24 or ordinance shall be made, repugnant to the laws of this district;
 25 and that no contribution be laid on any share, in any one year,
 26 greater than one fifth of the value of a share, without the con-
 27 sent of a majority of the members.

1 SECT. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be an an-
 2 nual meeting of the members of the said Library company, at
 3 the Library, or such suitable place as the directors may from time
 4 to time appoint, of which the directors shall cause public notice
 5 to be given, in one or more of the newspapers that circulate in the
 6 vicinity: at which time and place, the members, or such of them
 7 as may be present, either personally or by proxy, and shall not
 8 be in arrears for any annual contribution, fines, or forfeitures, shall

9 elect and choofe by ballot, fix directors out of their own number,
 10 to ferve for the year enfuing their election, and until others fhall
 11 be elected, and confent to ferve in their place.

1 SECT. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the directors fhall
 2 caufe the treafurer, fecretary, and librarian, to keep, in fuitable
 3 books for that purpofe, juft and proper entries of all the pro-
 4 ceedings, and accounts of the company and corporation, and have
 5 them laid before the company at every annual meeting, previous
 6 to taking the votes for directors ; and fhall always deliver the
 7 faid books, together with all the property of the company, in
 8 good order to their fucceffors in office, whenever required.

B